

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Rock Springs Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-WY-D040-2016-0101-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: WYW167918

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Alkali Gulch four and one half (4½) inch buried natural gas pipeline

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 13 N., R. 100 W, 6th P.M., Sweetwater County, Wyoming sec. 17: SW¼NW¼, sec. 18: SE¼SE¼

APPLICANT (if any): QEPM Gathering I, LLC

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

QEPM Gathering I, LLC proposes to construct, operate and maintain a four and one half (4½) inch buried natural gas pipeline to connect to the Alkali Gulch 5-17 well located on public land in sec. 17 and 18, T. 13 N., R. 100 W. The total length of the pipeline will consist of approximately 3,681.5 feet with a proposed 50 foot construction width for a total disturbance of 4.23 acres. A 30 foot permanent width has been proposed for a total of 2.54 acres.

All construction materials will be hauled to the job by truck. The materials would be strung along the right-of-way as materials arrive. Pipe would be strung in such a manner as to cause the least interference with the normal use of the land crossed by the right-of-way. The right-of-way would be cleared of above ground vegetation and obstacles with surface disturbance limited to that required to ensure a safe work area for equipment and workers. The trench width would be 20 inches and the pipeline would be buried with 30 inches of cover measured from the top of the pipe. All road crossings would be buried to a minimum of 48-inches below the borrow area. The construction period would last approximately 2 weeks. The construction work is expected to number 20 at the peak of construction. The construction work force would commute daily.

All disturbed areas would be reshaped and contoured as near as possible to its original condition. The reclamation would be accomplished as soon as possible after the disturbance occurs. Appropriate measures would be taken to prevent erosion. All topsoil would be conserved for reclamation purposes and excess topsoil, if any, would be stockpiled for soil replacement along the pipeline right-of-way.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Green River RMP **Date Approved:** August 8, 1997

as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, and Wyoming (signed September 21, 2015)

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Land and Realty Management, page 9:

1. Manage public lands to support the goals and objective of other resource programs;
2. Respond to public demand for land use authorizations;

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

DNA for Alkali Gulch 5-17

WY-040-EA13-132, DR/FONSI (signed April 21, 2014).

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

A Class III cultural inventory and report was completed in 2015 for the proposed project area and is on file in the BLM Rock Springs Field office.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the proposed action is similar to and is located adjacent to the facilities and within the project area analyzed in the Alkali Gulch 5-17 access road and well pad. The Alkali Gulch 5-17 access road and well pad analyzed the impacts of a well pad consisting of 3.8 acres of disturbance and an access road consisting of 4.2 acres of new disturbance, of a total of 8.0 acres. The Alkali Gulch 5-17 pipeline would parallel the approved Alkali Gulch 5-17 access road. The initial disturbance would consist of 4.2 acres with a permanent maintenance and operation acreage of 2.54.

The resource conditions in the project area are essentially the same as the conditions in the area analyzed in the Alkali Gulch 5-17 EA. Both projects occur within Core Area for

Sage Grouse nesting/brood rearing. Soil conditions are sufficiently similar; there will be no water depletion from the Colorado/North Platte System; there are no developed recreation sites within the area. Cultural and paleontological surveys have been completed, and with mitigation, any potential impacts would be addressed.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The proposed action is to construct a six (6) inch buried natural gas pipeline paralleling the access road to the Alkali Gulch 5-17 well. The alternatives analyzed in the Alkali Gulch 5-17 EA access road and well pad EA are appropriate for the proposed pipeline as the current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are the same as what was analyzed in the Alkali Gulch 5-17 EA.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. No new information or circumstances have occurred since the Alkali Gulch EA was completed.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The proposed action is to construct a six (6) inch buried natural gas pipeline. Impacts are within what was analyzed in the Alkali Gulch 5-17 EA. Cumulative effects for the access road and well pad such as the proposed action were analyzed in the Alkali Gulch EA; this project would not exceed the impacts analyzed. The pipeline would be constructed and immediately reclaimed the access road and well pad would be in place for the life of the well.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The Environmental Assessment for the Alkali Gulch 5-17 access road and well pad was internally scoped along with the Alkali Gulch 5-17 proposed pipeline, no public comments were received.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Crystal Hoyt	Realty Specialist	BLM

